

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

UMSISSION NATO 540

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 3420

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, GN

SUBJECT: OLSZOWSKI-SCHEEL TALKS IN HELSINKI

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR IN WARSAW, POLISH-GERMAN RELATIONS HAVE "MOVED FORWARD A LITTLE BIT" AS A RESULT OF MEETINGS BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTERS SCHEEL AND OLSZOWSKI IN HELSINKI. A KEY ELEMENT IN THIS PROGRESS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN AN OLSZOWSKI PROPOSAL THAT THE POLES COMPENSATE THEIR OWN WAR VICTIMS IN RETURN FOR LONG-TERM GERMAN ECONOMIC AID. END SUMMARY.

2. AT A MEETING OF THE NATO AMBASSADORS IN WARSAW JULY 9, FRG AMBASSADOR REUTE GAVE THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON THE MEETING BETWEEN FRG FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL AND
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POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER OLSZOWSKI DURING THE CSCE

PLENARIES IN HELSINKI.

3. RUETE CONFIRMED THAT OLSZOWSKI AND SCHEEL MET TWICE (JULY 3 AND 6) AND SAID THAT THERE WAS ALSO A MEETING BETWEEN VICE MINISTER VAN WELL OF THE FRG AND HIS POLISH COUNTERPART, CZYREK. THE MAIN TOPICS OF THE MEETINGS WERE THE QUESTION OF FRG COMPENSATION FOR POLISH WARS VICTIMS AND THE ISSUE OF EMIGRATION OF GERMAN NATIONALS FROM POLAND TO THE FRG. ACCORDING TO TUETE, AS A RESULT OF THE MEETINGS THE GERMANS HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT MATTERS HAD "MOVED FORWARD A LITTLE BIT." THE NEW ELEMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS FEELING WAS OLSZOWSKI'S PROPOSAL THAT THE POLES WOULD BE WILLING TO COMPENSATE THEIR OWN CITIZENS FOR WAR DAMAGES IN RETURN FOR LONG-TERM FRG ECONOMIC AID. OLSZOWSKI ALSO SAID THE POLES WOULD MAKE A NEW PROPOSAL ON REPATRIATION OF GERMAN NATIONALS WHICH WOULD BE PUT IN THE FORM OF WHAT RUETE CALLED AN "INFORMATION" (APPARENTLY A UNILATERAL MINUTE FROM THE POLES) WHICH THE GERMANS WOULD ASSUME WOULD EMBODY A "FAIRLY GENEROUS" POLISH OFFER ON REPATRIATION. (THE TWO SIDES STILL ARE FAR APART ON ASSESSMENT OF THE NUMBER OF GERMAN NATIONALS IN POLAND. RUETE SAID THE POLES SPOKE IN TERMS OF 30-40,000 GERMAN NATIONALS, WHEREAS THE GERMANS ESTIMATE THAT 270-280,000 PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED.)

4. RUETE SAID THAT CURRENT PLANS CALL FOR CZYREK TO VISIT BONN SEPTEMBER 13-14, FOLLOWED BY SCHEEL'S ANNOUNCED VISIT TO WARSAW IN LATE OCTOBER (WARSAW 3305). IF THESE VISITS GO WELL, GIEREK WOULD VISIT BONN, POSSIBLY IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER, BUT MORE LIKELY IN EARLY 1974.

5. RUETE SAID HE HAD TALKED BY TELEPHONE WITH CZYREK AFTER THE LATTER'S RETURN FROM HELSINKI. CZYREK SAID HE WAS PLEASED BY THE RESULTS OF THE HELSINKI TALKS. HE COMMENTED THAT THE TALKS HAD "INDICATED POSSIBILITIES" ON THE BASIS OF WHICH PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED, BUT THAT THESE POSSIBILITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE MORE CONCRETE.

6. ASSESSING THE PROSPECTS FOR A SOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING
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FRG-POLISH PROBLEMS, RUETE SAID THAT MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT THE GERMAN SIDE IS ABLE TO DO IN TERMS OF LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AID; HE ADDED THAT SUBSTANTIAL AID COMMITMENTS WOULD "BE DIFFICULT" FOR THE FRG.

7. COMMENT: IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE FRG OVER THE PAST YEAR, THE POLES HAVE CAST THEMSELVES VERY MUCH IN THE ROLE OF THE AFFRONTED PARTY, WHOSE DEMANDS (ON

COMPENSATION FOR WAR VICTIMS AND GERMAN TRADE CONCESSIONS, AMONG OTHER THINGS) WOULD HAVE TO BE SATISFIED BEFORE THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION COULD MOVE FORWARD SIGNIFICANTLY. MEANWHILE, THE RELATIONS OF THE FRG WITH OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (NOTABLY CZECHOSLOVAKIA, YUGOSLAVIA, AND EVEN THE GDR) HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING RAPIDLY, CREATING A DANGER THAT POLAND MIGHT BE LEFT BEHIND WHILE ITS ALLIES REAP THE BENEFITS, IN ECONOMIC AND PRESTIGE TERMS, OF BETTER TIES WITH THE WEST GERMANS. THIS IS THE BACKGROUND TO WHAT APPEARS, FROM RUETE'S COMMENTS, TO HAVE BEEN A SIGNIFICANT POLISH INITIATIVE IN HELSINKI TO BREAK THE IMPASSE OVER WAR-VICTIM COMPENSATION AND REPatriation. ALTHOUGH, AS RUETE INDICATED, SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS REMAIN IN BOTH AREAS, THE OUTCOME OF THE OLSZOWSKI-SCHEEL MEETING IS A SIGN THAT THE POLES ARE ANXIOUS TO GET THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE FRG MOVING FORWARD AGAIN.

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